

# DEPARTMENT OF STATE

September 7, 1976

NO. 419

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY  
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOLLOWING HIS MEETING  
AT THE ELYSEE WITH  
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING  
PARIS, FRANCE  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1976

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am not used to this arrangement. I am used to a mob scene. Ladies and gentlemen, the President and I had a two-hour conversation which was very cordial and in which we reviewed the world situation. I informed the President about the initiatives that the United States has taken with the support of Great Britain in southern Africa and especially about my talks with the Prime Minister of South Africa, as well as what we are planning for the future. We discussed the situation in the Middle East, the general problems connected with the proliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear weapons. The French Foreign Minister gave us his impressions of the state of the North-South dialogue, and of the prospects which he sees for it. As I said, the discussions were conducted in a very cordial atmosphere and were from our point of view extremely productive, and it is always a great privilege for me and a great benefit to have an opportunity to exchange ideas with the President.

I will be glad to take a few questions.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you receive any assurance from the French President on the nuclear sales to Pakistan you were concerned about?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We did not discuss the question of any particular sale. We discussed the general question of proliferation policy of our two countries. As you know, there is a national study going on in the United States about our policies. There is, as I understand it, a policy review going on in France about France's national policy, and as these reviews continue we will no doubt exchange ideas on it, but we did not discuss any one particular sale.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, did you discuss President Giscard d'Estaing's proposal for (inaudible) Africa?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We discussed the French proposal for a fund to Africa. The United States has always welcomed this

**For further information contact:**

initiative by President Giscard. The United States supports it, the United States is prepared to contribute to it, and it is awaiting French initiatives to implement it.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: We discussed the situation in Lebanon and the general prospects for peace in the Middle East.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I'll do almost anything to get out of the United States during election time.

QUESTION: Are these prospects for peace any better, sir?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: The United States strongly supports movement toward peace in the Middle East, and of course, it hopes very much for a resolution in Lebanon which will permit that country to maintain its unity, integrity and sovereignty. We believe that the objective conditions to begin movement toward peace in the Middle East exist. And the United States will support them.

QUESTION: (Inaudible)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am awaiting the conclusion of the Conference of the African Presidents and liberation movements in Dar es Salaam. As I pointed out, some progress has been made in the discussions, and if the United States can be helpful in speeding the independence of Namibia and majority rule in Rhodesia, we are prepared to help but it is, of course, up to the parties concerned.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger, according to you, what part could be played by France in South African problems?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: France has a distinguished and historic role in Africa. And France has great influence in the Francophone countries as well as in other parts of Africa. This is why the United States, in our initiatives, has always consulted closely with the President and the Foreign Minister of France, and we are confident that France will use its influence to promote peace and progress in southern Africa.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, can you tell us, is it likely that the United States will grant asylum to the Soviet pilot who flew his plane into Japan yesterday?

-3-

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Frankly, this happened while I was traveling and without advance notification to me, so my assumption is that if he asked for asylum in the United States, that we will probably grant it. If we don't, you know I've been overruled.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, will there be a shift toward agreement in the North-South Conference that is coming up?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I have the impression, based on the report given to me by the French Foreign Minister that he's hopeful that progress can be made. We certainly have, in our talks with the Canadian Foreign Minister, attempted to indicate bases on which we are prepared to move forward and my impression, based on the conversation this morning, is that progress is possible and if so, the United States will strongly support it.

Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*